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UCAPAWA NEWS

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AT THE CIO CONVENTION

JOHN L. LEWIS and some of the delegates from UCAPAWA. From left to right are Dio Nisio, Navia Insigne, John L. Lewis, Donald Henderson, and Conrad Espe. *See Page 3*

Official Publication of
The United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and
Allied Workers of America, CIO

UCAPAWA NEWS

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing & Allied Workers of America

Affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations

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ELINOR CURTIS ..... Editor

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WHO IS WHO IN OUR UNION

CLYDE JOHNSON

Intl. UCAPAWA Representative

Clyde Johnson has been UCAPAWA's international representative in the sugar beet area of District Three since last Spring. For the past six or seven years he has served the cause of agricultural workers throughout the United States.

One year, "The Nation," a magazine sympathetic to labor, nominated him for the "Hall of Fame." But Johnson is not interested in fame. He just wants to help agricultural workers win their battle for decent living conditions.

Cause First

He is one of those fellows who has always put the cause before himself. In Alabama he fought for and with the share croppers. With them he starved and froze and with them he risked and narrowly escaped death.

One night, while he was hiding in a Southern worker's house, thugs stuck a bomb under the room he was sleeping in. Fortunately for Clyde, he was sleeping on a large bag of peanuts and all the bomb did was to bust the bag and jerk him awake.

Undaunted by many incidents like this he continued his work as though nothing had happened.

Johnson is a man who can do many things. For several months he edited our union paper and accomplished a lot of research and legislative work besides.

When help was needed in the beet fields, he took himself and his family to Colorado. Since he went to District Three last Spring, work in the Rocky Mountain beet region has begun to hum. The International feels that beet District Three will be tops so far as agricultural workers go, in a very few months now.

Tackles Refineries

Johson, however, does not stop with organizing beet workers. He has organized greenhouse workers in Denver. Together with Fidel Herrara, president of District Three, he plans to tackle the sugar refineries, heart of the beet industry. Work has already been started along these lines.

With Fidel Herrara as president and Johnson as UCAPAWA's representative, great things can be expected from District Three in the coming year.

UCAPAWA Stands Ready to Carry Out Program of Second CIO Convention

"I came back to San Francisco after a lapse of five years" said John L. Lewis in his opening speech to 400 delegates attending the Second Constitutional Convention of the CIO on October 10.

"Five years ago my voice was a feeble voice in this hall, a voice which might be compared with the voice of Rachel lamenting in the wilderness but today I come back to San Francisco and behind me is a mighty army of four million men and women, a greater numerical force than ever followed any conqueror in the pages of history.

"This is not an army of conquest but an army of soldiers of peace, who ask for rectification of their wrongs and who ask for participation in the natural bounties merely on the same plane and to the same degree as their neighbors, friends and fellow citizens.

"Four million men and women, who with their own dependants, in their own households, account for twelve million of the population of the United States; whose voices and thoughts will be heard in this hall through the delegates here."

Ten Million In 15 Years

"When I come back," continued President Lewis, five years from now as come back I will, I will come back into San Francisco with at least 10 million dues paying members of the organization.

President Lewis called upon delegates to support President Roosevelt's neutrality program. He warned, against illusions that the wording of the Neutrality Act will alone keep the country out of war.

Living up to its reputation as guardian of all workers' rights, the CIO called for speedy and adequate action for the ten million jobless in the country.

The great and main task of the CIO stressed by the Convention is to organize the unorganized. All activities are dependant for success on the organized power of the workers.

Action on other vital issues was taken at the Second Constitutional Convention of the CIO. Most important of these were:

Employment—Called on United States Government to make an immediate survey of technological unemployment. Appealed to Congress to authorize a public works program, sufficient to provide jobs for all unemployed who are able and willing to work.

Labor and the War—Declared it must ever be the purpose of the United States to remain out of European wars. Demanded legislation to take the profits out of war. "We will defend the free institutions of this great Republic, the greatest Democracy on earth, under the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution."

Farm Program

UCAPAWA has fought for a policy of coperation with small farmers. The CIO Convention adopted the following resolution on the subject:

Whereas (1) The CIO has recognized as a fundamental policy the true unity of interests between farmers and organized labor in a balanced and permanent national prosperity; and

(2) During the past year the CIO and the farmers have engaged in concrete instances of mutual cooperation, an outstanding example being the case of the New York Dairy Farmers, where the CIO industrial organizations supported those farmers in their demands for a fair and just price for their milk from the large scale corporate milk distributors with the result that the dairy farmers in New York for the first time were able to achieve a fair and just price for their products; now therefore be it

Resolved, (1) That the CIO announces its determination to continue its policy to cooperate with farm groups and invites progressive farmers and farm organizations to join hands with organized labor in the achievement of their common goal; and

(2) The executive officers are instructed to take every step to support the farmers in securing necessary legislation to provide among other things for liberal credit, fair prices for products which farmers must buy and farm prices at not less than cost of production.

Wagner Act and NLRB—Reaffirmed complete support of Wagner Act. Flayed attempts of NLRB to "appease" AFL and reactionary employers.

Civil Liberties—Expressed gratification of continuance of LaFollette Committee and its investigation into Associated Farmers.

Political Action — Commended activities and functions of Labor's Non Partisan League. Directed CIO Executive Board to coordinate political and legislative activities of affiliates "in view of the deep importance to labor of the 1940 national election."

Cost of Living and Wages—Condemning as pernicious and inequitable the principle that wage increases must be related to the increases in cost of living as simply a way to chain labor forever to its present and inedaquate share in this country."

Assistance to Farmers—Declared its determination "to continue its policy to cooperate with farm groups and invite progressive farmers and farm organizations to join hands with organized labor in the achievement of their common goal."

Pledged support to farmers in obtaining legislation assuring liberal credit, fair prices for products farmers must buy and farm prices a not less than cost of production.

Social Security—Endorsed old age pensions program of $60 a month at 60, with supplementary allowance for married couples to bring pension up to $90. Urged increased appropriation for grants in aid to states under the Social Security Act.

Labor Unity—After receiving a letter from President Roosevelt urging the resumption of conferences the convention voted to continue its committee appointed for that purpose.

Government Contracts—Called on President Roosevelt to issue immediately an executive order establishing guarantees of collective bargaining in government concontracts.

Criminal Syndicalism and Alien Legislation — Opposed anti-alien-bills. Urged defeat of Hobbs and

Con't. on next page

UCAPAWA Ready to Carry Out Program Of CIO Convention

(Continued from Page 3)

Dempsey Bills and Criminal Syndicalism Bill.

Youth—Went on record for comprehensive program that will provide not only full opportunity for education and training but will also give substance to the fundamental right of everyone to a job.

Unity of Negro and White Workers—Pledged uncompromising opposition to any form of discrimination, whether political or economic, based upon race, color, creed or nationality.

Child Labor—Called for complete enforcement of child labor provisions of Fair Labor Standards Act and passage of Federal Child Labor Amendment by State Legislatures.

Farm Workers—Called for defeat of attempts to deprive agricultural labor of social security benefits, urged extension of state industrial labor laws to assist such workers. Urged large appropriation for Farm Security Administration to aid agricultural workers in obtaining housing, relief etc.

Henderson Takes Floor

After the Resolution on Farm Workers was passed General President Henderson of UCAPAWA made the following address:

"Mr. Chairman, there are in this resolution two problems, dealing with two somewhat different groups of workers, those that are working in the processing of agriculture, in food and fiber and those who work in the field for the farmers, landlords and land owning companies. I want to deal first with the food and fiber processing workers, the agricultural processing workers.

Processing Workers

"We have made steady, if slow, progress in organizing these groups in many sections of the country. We do not claim to have organized the industry as a whole, but we have made a beginning. There are many hundreds of thousands of these workers who labor under special difficulties and it is the special difficulties that I want to refer to.

"During the last Congress no one could fail to recognize that there had taken place, as the result of very careful preliminary work and scheming, an unholy alliance between certain food processing plants and interests and certain large-scale farm groups, initiated by the Associated Farmers. Here in their own state of California, and over a period of some two years, there was built up a bloc and a lobby composed of interests of the Dairy Trusts, the Dairy Processing Trust, the meat processing interests, the cotton processing interests, the Canning Trust of the United States and many other groups of a similar sort who combined with certain national leaders of certain farm organizations to form the spearhead in an attempt to take the guts out of the Wages and Hours Act which has certain provisions covering the food and fiber processing workers.

Exclusion From Wages & Hours

"They combined to pass amendments to secure exclusion of the food processing workers from the Social Security Act. They combined to get amendments introduced that would also take the backbone out of the Wagner Labor Relations Act.

"I want to say here and now that no group of workers was more appreciative and more heartily supported the denuciatory statements made by our President John L. Lewis, when he took to task the tactics and the methods and the attitude of those individuals and particularly one individual, at the hearing on those amendments to the Wages and Hours Law.

"We want to thank President Lewis for that expose.

Field Workers

"Now I want to come to the second part of the problem of our union, the problem of millions of field workers, agricultural workers. I wish I could be as eloquent to you people here in this time today as that great author, John Steinbeck was in his book "Grapes of Wrath."

"The public conscience has been shocked by conditions described in the book. Conditions exposed in that book apply, in different form and in an even worse form, to large sections of the agricultural workers in the Old South. There is piling up there a problem of almost totally unemployed people living from hand to mouth, numbering hundreds and hundreds of thousands.

"I sometime feel and other leaders of our union feel, as though we were handling a keg of nitroglycerine, where the slightest false step would result in an explosion fatal to both the person carrying the nitroglycerine and all surrounding bystanders.

"For four years before there was a CIO, first in the AFL and then in the CIO, in and many of my associates have been working on this problem. In recent months it has become the practice of a certain Government Agency to take pot shots at the leaders of our organization as un-American. If it is un-American to spend one's time and energy trying to correct starvation, malnutrition, illiteracy, disease and the

(Continued on Page 11)

Mexican Workers

UCAPAWA has in its membership the largest number of Mexican workers in any International. The resolution on Mexican workers was, therefore, one of special interest to our union.

"Whereas, There are large numbers of Mexican workers in this country particularly in the West and Southwest, who came here to fill the needs of industry and agriculture and who have been victims of extreme exploitation and discrimination, and these workers have demonstrated their loyalty to American institutions and to the cause of unionism; now therefore be it

"Resolved, That this convention hereby expresses its opposition to the vicious exploitation and discrimination directed against the Mexican workers and American workers of Mexican descent, and welcomes them into the ranks of organized labor in the United States for the improvement of their conditions.

Citizenship For Filipinos

Among many resolutions passed at the Second Constitutional Convention of the CIO that were of special interest to UCAPAWA was one on the Filipinos.

Whereas large numbers of Filipine workers in this country have demonstrated their allegiance to the United States in their determination to fight along with the rest of the American people for the preservation of Democratic institutions, but under the present law the Filipine people in this country are ineligible to become citizens; now therefore be it

Resolved, That this convention urges Congress to enact legislation affording an opportunity to the Filipine people in this country who are native citizens of the Filipine Islands and permanent residents of the United States to become citizens in compliance with the naturalization laws.

UCAPAWA DELEGATES AT CIO CONVENTION

Local Five Elects Officers

We offer this as an example of real unity. The Alaska Cannery Workers Union, Local 5 of San Francisco has announced its election results.

This union, that has smashed the Alaska slave trade, suceeded in making large gains for its membership after a long struggle against employers' splitting tactics.

No Discrimination

Most important weapon used by employers was the setting of race against race and nationality against nationality.

Recent election results show how this militant group has progressed. The Alaska Cannery Workers Union is proud of its progress and proud of its unity. There is no discrimination and plenty of unity shown in this list of officers.

President, George Woolf (reelected).

First Vice-President K. Yoneda (reelected, Japanese.

Second Vice-President, S. Caballero (reelected), Filipino.

Third Vice-President, W. Fong (reelected), chinese.

Secretary, S. Young, Chinese.

Treasurer, R. Aguirre, Mexican.

Recording Secretary, M. Whaley.

Every nationality in the union is represented on the 26 man executive board.

Kauai Plans Organization Of 8300 For UCAPAWA

On the Island of Kauai, part of the Hawaiian Islands, UCAPAWA has organized a pineapple plant and a sugar plantation. There are 8300 workers on this Island that are potential members of UCAPAWA.

An organizing committee from the two existing locals has been set up. The plan is to have over 8000 workers in UCAPAWA by Spring.

Did You Get Yours Yet?

THE NEW AND BEAUTIFUL

UCAPAWA DRESS BUTTON

Is Selling Fast!

DON'T DELAY! ORDER YOUR BUTTONS AT ONCE!

PRICE 25c each

"LET'S TELL THE WORLD"

Thousands of Cotton Pickers Strike Fierce Blow at Associated Farmers

Twenty thousand cotton pickers have refused to pick in California's San Joakin Valley for 80c per hundred pounds. These brave people struck seven weeks ago, knowing they would have to face the most unpatriotic anti-labor set up in the country, the Associated Farmers.

Twenty-three of the leading strikers are in jail. Countless men, women and children have been beaten. Scores of families have been evicted from their shanties. But the strike goes on.

Each day the wrath of the cotton pickers grows. Each day they continue the fight with more determination. That determination is going to win the battle. Desperate, with their cotton still in the fields, growers are slowly giving in.

Many ranches have agreed to pay pickers $1 per hundred pounds instead of the original 80c they offered. In the beginning pickers asked 1.25 but they feel the 20c gain is a real victory.

Wage Board Fails

Strike was forced on cotton pickers when a Wage Board appointed by Governor Olson failed to act.

It was a curiously mixed Wage Board that the Governor appointed. Three members were O.K. Labor Commissioner H. R. Carrasco, Mrs. E. H. Erdman of Berkley and Carey McWilliams, Chief of the State Division of Immigration and housing reported in favor of UCAPAWA's demands of $1.25 per hundred pounds. True this was a low enough wage with the price of cotton soaring for the profit makers and the cost of food going up every day.

It was, however, a wage that the union felt it had a chance of winning. It was a wage that meant not quite starvation.

Rest of Board Goes Screwy

The other four members of the Board headed by Professor R. L. Adams of the University of California recommended that the cotton pickers should get only what they would receive as unemployed people on State Relief.

Though the Associated Farmers boycotted the hearings, asserting that they had made up their minds to pay only 80c, the Board decision played right into their hands.

Strike

Next day strike was voted in Kern County. It has spread now to all cotton lands and counties of the valley.

Almost immediately Associated Farmers' thugs were on the scene. They broke up workers' meetings with tear gas and clubs. Small growers who were anxious to get their cotton picked and agreed with pickers to pay $1 per hundred pounds were intimidated and threatened by Associated Farmers.

Col Henderson, Sell-Out Artist

As violence increased A. L. Wirin of the Civil Liberties Union entered the struck territory. He together with UCAPAWA's leaders and lawyer asked Governor Olson for protection of strikers' civil rights.

Governor Olson had sent Colonel Henderson into the valley as an observer. Henderson reported to Olson that civil rights had not been violated and that the strike represented nothing but a few "red agitators." Meanwhile the Colonel played ball with the Associated Farmers while police stood by and laughed or lent a hand to the Associated thugs.

In Memoriam

During the cotton pickers' strike in California, masses of workers held memorial services for two agricultural workers who were killed by bosses six years ago in Pixley.

Americans, Negroes and Filipinos attended the services for Delfino Davila and Dolores Hernandez. In the hearts of the workers these two still live.

Frame Up

The true story of tricks played on desperately starving, striking families can not be known for some time. That dirty politics, strange aliances and illegal acts were committed by the Associated Farmers and their henchmen we already know.

When Attorney Resner for the UCAPAWA went to see the 23 jailed leaders late in October he found that District Attorney Mordecai had been talking to and intimidating four of them.

The District Attorney had told four of the imprisoned strikers that there were felony charges against them. At the same time he promised to set them free, if they would testify against their fellow strikers in jail.

He told them to testify that the other prisoners had conspired to commit acts of violence and otherwise break the law.

"The authorities here have arrested these men without any evidence of law breaking and they are now trying to frame a case against them to justify the arest and intimidate other strikeers," said Herbert Resner.

He continued, "I told the District Attorney that his actions had been unconstitutional and he admitted that he knew they were."

Meanwhile violence continues in San Joakin valley. Men, women and little children with nowhere to sleep, nothing to eat, are hunted shot and beaten because they asked for a wage they could live on a little better.

Small Growers Snub Associated

Nevertheless there is good news too. The Associated Farmers have lost their grip on the small cotton growers and many of the large growers are also giving them the raspberry.

After all is said and done growers must get cotton picked or be ruined.

Con't. on next page

Strike Blow at Associated Farmers

Con't. from preceding page

Small growers and many large ones are agreeing to compromise with UCAPAWA for $1 per hundred pounds. Many of the strikers have already gone back to work at this wage and they are flocking back every day.

Real Victory

This is real victory. It means more money for the pickers. The Associated Farmers have lost most or much of their influence over growers.

In the future growers will not be so ready to risk their crop just for the sake of paying starvation wages to 20,000 people. The morale of the strikers is fine.

Next year they will be all set to ask for a really fair wage instead of the 20c increase they have won this year.

Contracts

As we go to press we find that something short of a miracle has happened. "Its a terrific victory to get a signed agreement in agriculture," said officers of UCAPAWA at Bakersfield as they regarded with satisfaction one of those very things.

King Farm Association of 13 growers at Visalia signed a contract with the union. It provides for $1 per hundred pounds for the first picking of cotton and a sliding scale for the second picking.

A verbal contract was secured with E. C. Von Gahn who has 1700 acres of cotton near Tulare with wages of $1 first picking and $1.25 second picking.

WHAT ABOUT THIS CIO?

By HARRY KOGER

International Representative
UCAPAWA

Six months ago, this was a common question in East Texas. That was before we started our campaign to help our members in solving their many problems.

Today our members know the answer here in East Texas. We all feel justly proud of the progress that has been made during the past six months.

Our East Texas organization, local unions, and our individual members have had many and varied experiences, experiences that will be a guide to even greater accomplishments in months to come.

New Campaign

We are starting a more aggressive fight for decent living conditions. Our program for the future includes the following points for immediate action:

1. A more intense fight against discrimination and for justice for our members.
2. Closer study of Federal Farm programs in which we will be aided by our International Office.
3. Better rural schools and an end to discrimination in education.
4. Establish more cooperative buying and marketing clubs and various cooperative enterprises.
5. Petitions for Federal grants or loans for poverty—stricken rural communities.
6. Demand the right to vote regardless of race, color or creed.
7. Federal Farm Aid or WPA work for deserving members where other work is not available at decent wages.
8. Closer affiliation with our International Office, the Farmers UCAPAWA Unions in Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma and with the Louisiana Farmers Union.

Accomplishments

Officials to whom we have appealed for justice for our members have learned to respect us. They know that honest people have nothing to fear from us.

Only crooked politicians, cheating landlords and chiselling merchants, whose dark deeds will not stand the spotlight of exposure, dread to see our rapid growth. Honest people are congratulating us on the good work we are doing.

Federal, State and County authorities, with a few exceptions, have shown a willingness to cooperate with us. FSA, WPA and Old Age Assistance officials have expressed their desire to deal fairly and without discrimination.

Individual help has been given to many of our members and their families in securing WPA work and relief, Old Age Assistance, adjusting landlord tenant troubles and many other things. Even prison doors have been opened for some that were unjustly imprisoned.

Community Service

Prominent in our program is community service. In communities where we have locals, our officers and active members are ever on the alert for new plans to better the living, social and educational conditions of the community.

Already two petitions for better schooling facilities have been circulated and they are getting results. Several communities are being assisted in securing cooperative tractors, wood-cutting mills, shingle mills, establishing cooperative buying and marketing clubs and stores.

Easton Soil
Conservation District

This includes he communities of Easton, Nelson Hall and Greenville and is one of the outstanding community enterprises. This proposed district is being sponsored by locals in those three communities.

A public hearing was held by the State Board in Longview concerning the project. Present indications point to a likely granting of the petition that we have made for the soil conservation district.

UCAPAWA members, your CIO union is always ready and willing to help you with your personal problems. If you need assistance or advice in settling your problem, get in touch with your local officers.

UCAPAWA Improves Compress Pacts

In addition to the new Stockton Compress Contract UCAPAWA signed three improved contacts with California cotton compresses.

Local 272 in an agreement with the Valley Compress and Warehouse Company at Bakersfield won seniority in writing (last year it was verbal), preferential hiring, vacations with pay, sick leave and a five cent wage increase, with the exception of truckers who were granted 2½c an hour increase.

Local 254 renewed contracts with Western Compress of Fresno and Valley Compress and Warehouse Company of Pinedale. These contracts provided for a five cent an hour increase for all workers and seniority.

MISSOURI COUNCIL BUYS LAND FOR UNION CAMP

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—The Missouri Agricultural Workers Council has just bought a large tract of land. "We are going to establish a union camp for the benefit of our members," stated Rev. O. H. Whitfield, leader of the famous roadside demonstration. "It will be a real CIO meeting place."

Plans have been made for holding a monster mass meeting at the camp as soon as arrangements are made. Many sharecropper and field workers who were evicted from their homes during the demonstration are finding temporary homes at the camp.

COTTON COMPRESS WORKERS WIN STOCKTON STRIKE IN ONE WEEK

By B. E. JOHNSON
President Local 311

In regards to our strike here in the city of Stockton, California, we have won and the men are back at their respective jobs. The strike lasted only one week.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, the men walked off the job at 5 p.m. By the 23rd the plant was completely closed down. We met with the manager and didn't get any consideration from him. We asked him to let us meet with the Board of Directors.

He said it wouldn't be possible but when he saw that we meant business he presented our demands to the Board of Directors.

Big Shots Back Down

Our walk-out was so effective and put so much pressure on the corporation that the stockholders had a meeting to investigate the situation here.

Then the Board of Directors called our Committee to Fresno to meet with them October 23. We met with the big shots of the company. They were Coberly, Baker, Dickey, Coberly, Jr. and Griffin. They are all connected with a big finance company in California and Arizona.

Five Cent Hourly Increase

We won better working conditions and a five cents per hour increase in wages. We also won the seniority clause that we were fighting for.

Members were very much satisfied with the results we obtained. We didn't get everything we wanted, but we won what was important to us.

Better working conditions are worth more than the slight increase in wages gained.

Darby Swallows His Words

Our manager Darby had said that the plant would move before there would be a union on its wharf.

We have a committee that is working with other committees in the city against discrimination. There is a group of so-called citizens in this city that have been planning to prohibit Negroes, Mexicans, Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos and other nationalities from buying property in certain districts of Stockton.

I think we have this situation pretty well under control.

ON THE PICKET LINE at Western Cotton Products in Phoenix, Ariz.

Western Cotton Products Licked

By A. M. COLLINS
Pres. Local 306
& PAUL ALDRIDGE
Secretary Arizona State Council

The strike of the Oil Mill Workers of the Western Cotton Products Co. at the Phoenix Firestone Plant was settled Friday, Nov. 3 through the mediation of Mr. Frank J. Ashe, El Paso, Texas, Federal Labor Conciliator.

As consideration for the settlement the company agreed to rehire the men who went on strike Oct. 26, as vacancies occur. The contract also provided union recognition, a three-man grievance committee and a monthly meeting between union and company representatives to consider all differences arising from time to time.

Anderson & Clayton Interests

This strike involving the Firestone Plant of Western Cotton Products Co. in Phoenix, was one of many disputes with numerous branches of Anderson Clayton and Company interests, the largest cotton monopoly in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The tendency is growing, in large scale industry, to establish the same conditions of hours, wages and working conditions throughout a particular industry, by collective bargaining through unions.

"What steel, auto and coal mine workers do, we can do " stated A. M. Collins, president of the Cotton Compress and Oil Mill Workers Local 306 UCAPAWA.

"On the basis of the contract," he stated further "we are going to build our union and strive for better and uniform working conditions.

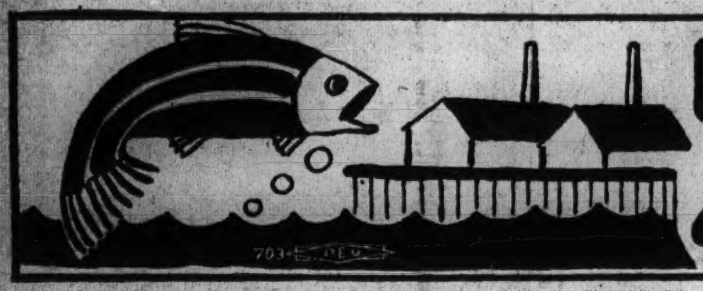
"Most of the Federal laws, governing social security and protecting wages and hours do not apply in the cotton processing industry.

"We are considered part of the agricultural workers. It is therefore necessary for us even more than other workers to have union protection."

We Want Xmas Bonus

Local 169 is adding to its campaign program in Argo Corn Products a request for a Christmas Bonus.

For the last three years the company has refused to grant this bonus in spite of the fact that we employees of Corn Products have continued to give them our cooperation and have tried our best to keep pace with their inhuman Bedeaux system. Furthermore, we all know that we have already piled up over $7,000,000 of profit for the company in the past nine months. That means that by Christmas they will have far surpassed their net profits for last year.



FISH CANNING and SEAFOOD

BIG WAGE GAINS MADE IN SARDINE PLANT

Wage hikes of 20% for 120 sardine cannery workers marked one of many victories gained in a renewed contract signed by Local 5 UCAPWA with the Northern Packing Corp.

Seniority rights are guaranteed. Time and a half overtime has been won. Other canneries usually pay 10c an hour for overtime. None of them pays as much as time and a half.

Other sardine canneries in the San Francisco area have contracts that are bound by company union deals through Secretary Ed Vandeleur of the California State Federation of Labor.

Closed Shop

The contract signed by UCAPAWA provides for a closed shop. Refusal to go through a picket line by an employee will not be considered a violation by the renewed contract with the Northern Packing Corp

Workers are guaranteed the right to unite with their fellows in other industries by not being asked to work with material produced under conditions that are unfair to labor.

Sardine cannery workers celebrated the signing of this fine renewed contract on October 11th, in San Francisco

●

Palacios Local Makes Demands

By JOE WRIGHT

Organizer District 8

I spent a day in Palacios, Texas and attended the meeting of our new fish cannery local there the same evening. The officers and charter were installed.

We elected a contract committee to draft a contract to present to Crawford. The strike in Palacios is still in effect against Crawford The fishermen are holding up fine. Technically our UCAPAWA cannery local is not on strike but is observing the Fishermen's picket line and refusing to work for Crawford

Antipicketing Injunction Not Effective

Effectiveness of the strike has not been lessened by the anti-picketing injunction.

Palacios is a small town with a population of only 1500. There are 400 fishermen and UCAPAWA members in the town. A lot of picketing is being done and the injunction doesn't mean much.

Two smaller companies in Palacios are fair and refuse to employ non-union members. Part of our UCAPAWA members get work from the fair companies. Contributions from the NMU are helping to carry on the strike.

30 Boats Tied Up

Crawford is losing plenty of money. Thirty of his thirty-six boats are tied up.

Another company, The National Seafoods Co., has been wanting to set up business in Palacios. They have agreed to sign up with the fishermen and UCAPAWA.

UCAPAWA Will Present Demands

In a few days we will submit UCAPAWA demands to Crawford. We have not been in a hurry to do this. We have been waiting until we were sure of a clear majority. The fishermen thought it would be easier for us to negotiate with him after they had reached an agreement. They agree, now, that we should go ahead and present our demands.

It is a fine healthy local we have there. They are a militant, progressive and fighting bunch. The strike has been on for a month. Only four members of UCAPAWA went back to work. Three of the fishermen have gone back.

Our local there comes pretty near to being a League of Nations. It is composed of Mexicans, Anglo-Americans, Italians and Negroes and they are all represented by recently elected officers.

It continues to look like Crawford will come to his knees, or if that other company comes to Palacios, Crawford may be forced out.

Officers of Local 192 UCAPAWA are: President C. Valdez; Vice President Pauline Martino, Sec. Treas. Mrs. Ethel Peres, Recording Sec. Adelle Guidry, Floor Guard Felipe Rodriguez.

Trustees Mamie Aughesten, Emma Baker and Bessie Bellon.

Executive Board: Stacy Star, Annie Sardelich, Mrs. Coper, Pauline Martino, Mr. Gibson, Alex Sanchez and Mrs. Pet Martina.

●

Local 64 Gains Many New Members

By JOSEPHINE WOOD

Secretary Local 64

Fish Cannery Local 64 in San Diego is rapidly becoming the largest and most active union in town. During the past month more than 50 dues paying members have been added to its rolls.

The local is affiliated with the San Diego Industrial Union Council, the California State Industrial Union Council, the Spanish American Congress and the Maritime Federation of the Pacific.

Through participation with all these groups a united front is posible. Local 64 expects to continue the battle for the rights of those expolited men and women who comprise the vast majority of the working class of Southern California.

Local 64 Organizes Food Packing Plant

One of the most important drives in this city is against the Old Mission Packing Co., canners of pimentos, chile peppers and olives.

For many years this company has been one of the most notorious open shops in Southern California. Many of the workers at this plant get paid no more than 15c to 20c per hour. All this in spite of the fact that there is a Federal Wage and Hour Law and a California State Minimum Wage Law.

Handicapped by inadequate organizational assistance the UCAPAWA was, in the past, unable to help the workers at Old Mission. Now, however, an organizational committee, chaired by Brother A. L. Salidaver, Plant Committeeman of Fish Cannery Workers Local 64, has been formed. Almost half of the old Mission workers have signed up with UCAPAWA.

The National Labor Relations Board has been petitioned for an election that will take place sometime this month.

General President's Letter
Some Organizational Notes

(Editorial Note—Instead of General President Henderson's regular letter this month, UCAPAWA News presents an article by Leif Dahl, one of UCAPAWA's vice-presidents and president of District 7.

We hope that this article will promote discussion and that districts and locals will respond by sending in their ideas.)

President Henderson's articles on how to build District organizations were timely and very helpful. Here are a few additional ideas.

There can be no effective district organizations, or international union, without good local unions.

Six or seven good local unions, with agreements and a good local leadership that can handle their own day to day problems is the basis for a good district. Conversely, a district that has a bunch of local unions whose membership is small, without good contracts, and who depend upon a district organizer to solve all their problems is a poor district. And a few districts like this would make a poor international union.

Therefore the basis and core of most of our district and international problems rests right in the locals and nowhere else.

In District 7 our organizers have impressed upon the members of each local that they had to do most of the organizing work. We have told workers that all an organizer could do was to supply application cards, install charters, show them how to run their own local, help negotiate contracts and come in during strikes. We have tried to impress upon our local memberships that they must handle 98% of their own problems and that district and international organizers should be called only in case of emergencies.

Building Good Locals

Such an approach is basic and necessary to the building of good locals. Organizers who appear before workers as a savior and wet nurse local unions through every little problem ought to be fired because they create many more problems than they solve. The job of an organizer is to teach workers how to solve their own trade union problems. The strength of the CIO does not rest with a few thousand well trained organizers but with the loyalty and leadership among its millions of members.

In this connection, except in cases where there is financial dishonesty or a factional clique bent on breaking up a local, there is no justification for bringing in outsiders to administer the affairs of a local that is already organized and under agreement. There are plenty of capable people in each of our locals, who with a little help in the begining are fully competent to run their own local affairs.

Training leaders in each local union who can stand on their own feet is just one problem in the building of good locals and districts, however. The other major problem is that of building locals large enough so that they can sustain themselves with a hall, office, build a treasury and still have enough left to conduct organizing work independent of the district and international.

To understand why local unions must conduct organizing work independently it is necessary to analyze the per capita structure of UCAPAWA, since the per capita structure of any union determines the responsibility of the national office, districts, and locals.

Per Capita Taxes

There are two basic theories about per capita taxes among trade unionists. One theory states that per capita taxes must be all or most of the dues paid into local unions. The national Maritime Union, where all local dues and assessments are sent to the national office, is one example. The United Mine Workers, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee, Textile Workers Union,

LEIF DAHL, International Vice-President & President of District 7

etc., are examples of unions where 75 cents of every $1 dues is sent to the national office in per capita taxes.

In such unions the business agents and organizers are paid by the national headquarters. Because these unions have much more money they are able to do more organizing work and perform more servicing functions for locals than is the case in unions where per capita taxes are lower. One advantage of such form of organization is that it almost completely eliminates racketeering and dishonesty among local union officials because local treasuries are small. Another advantage is that such high per capita taxes permit the national headquarters to conduct more and better financed organizing campaigns.

The other theory on per capita taxes is that national and district headquarters should have enough money to maintain themselves on a minimum basis, but that locals, once they are organized and have agreements, must take care of their internal problems and also conduct organizing work by themselves in their vicinity. That is the way UCAPAWA is organized. So also are the United Automobile Workers, United Rubber Workers, Electrical and Radio Workers and other CIO Unions.

Where Per Capitas Go

Let's analyze where the per capita taxes go in UCAPAWA.

On industrial workers whose monthly dues are $1 or more, 50 cents is sent

Con't. on next page

Some Notes On Organization

Con't. from preceding page

to the national headquarters. This is divided as follows:

Remitted to Districts	.20c
Per capita to National CIO	.05c
Publicity (paper, etc.)	.05c
Strike and Defense Fund	.02c
Rent, stationery, wages for office workers, etc, in National office. **Note:** The National office has figured that it costs 0.8c to carry every mem ber per month on the books in overhead expenses alone.	0.8c
Organizing and legislative work carried on by National office	.10c
Total	.50c

On agricultural workers whose monthly dues are 60c, the per capita is 35c, divided as follows:

Remitted to Districts	.15c
Per capita to National CIO	.05c
Publicity, education (paper, etc)	.05c
Strike and defense	.02c
Rent, Stationery, wages for office staff, etc, in National office	.08c
Total	.35c

Our members should note that the National office has no leeway for organizing work from the per capita taxes which it receives from agricultural workers. The district and local unions here are clearly responsible insofar as per capita funds are concerned.

The only substahtial funds received by the national office that can be used for organizing work, either among industrial or agricultural workers, come from initiation fees. These figures, therefore, make it clear that with our present per capita structure the main responsibility for organizing work and servicing locals cannot rest with our International because it doesn't have the money.

Let's take a look at the districts. On industrial workers, the districts receive 20 cents per month, on agricultural workers they receive 15 cents. Districts, however, do not have to pay any per capita taxes, publish newspapers, or perform other work done by the national office. Their chief function is to service and co-ordinate the locals within each district and do organizing work.

If a district has 1000 dues paying industrial workers per month over a period of a year that brings it an income of $200 per month. That is just enough to keep an office, phone, stamps, etc, and one organizer or district official. Larger districts can keep more organizers and do more organizing work. With this picture of how districts are financed it becomes clear why locals have to be self-supporting if districts are to do any new organizing work.

Now what about the locals? In industrial locals where dues are $1 per month, no matter what dues are much as goes to the national and district headquarters combined. And those locals which charge more than $1 per month dues, keep a proportionately larger share of dues since per capita remains at 50 cents per member per month no matter what dues are charged. Much the same picture is true of agricultural locals where they keep more than goes to either the National or District offices.

Local Finances

Most of the money collected in UCAPAWA therefore remains with the local unions. So that not only organizationally, but financially as well, the local unions are the backbone of the international union.

Our job is to build large, strong, self-sufficient locals to strengthen this backbone. And here comes my final point.

Workers that come under the jurisdiction of UCAPAWA, for the most part, work either in plants or on farms which employ 100 workers or less. Our industry in other words is not centered in large, mass production plants, as is true of the automobile and steel industries. Our workers are employed in tens of thousands of relatively small food processing plants and on farms employing less than 100 or so workers. There are exceptions of course, but they only prove the rule.

If our organizers and district officials charter one local for every plant or farm, as is a tendency in some areas, we obviously cannot build large locals, with organizers, halls, offices, etc, etc. Therefore our policy should be wherever possible, to build amalgamated locals—that is put as many plants, packing sheds, farm workers, etc, as possible into one large local. One local of 1000 members is 20 or 30 times as strong as ten locals with 100 members each. One treasury of $2000 gives workers, even in a small plant, 50 times as much courage as a treasury of $100 in a small local union.

One large local in 10 different plants can do 20 or 30 times as much organizing work as 10 locals in 10 plants.

And finally 20 locals of 500 members or over makes a much better international union and district organizations than 200 locals with an average of 50 members each.

Size gives strength. Size gives better leadership. Size makes bigger treasuries and hence gives better protection to the individual member and individual agreement. Size means more organizers and business agents and that means more new members. Size means more political influence locally, on a state and national scale. Two or three big locals in each district means good districts and it all adds up to a better international with better protection for all of us.

In many places it is impossible or difficult to build large locals. However in each district there are at least three or four places where such locals can be built.

This article can be summed up in one sentence. One way to building a strong international and strong districts is to build selfsufficient leadership in all local unions whether large or small, and wherever possible, to build large, amalgamated Locals.

UCAPAWA Ready to Carry Out Program Of CIO Convention

Con't. from page 4

conditions that surround the agricultural workers of America, most of whom are citizens and all of whom contribute to the wealth of this country then I am un-American."

Henderson Attacks Associated Farmers

When a resolution on civil liberties came before the Convention, Henderson told of the mass arrest of cotton pickers and the terror being used against those pickers in the State of California.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES MADE

Some changes were made in the set up of leadership in the CIO. Six instead of two vice-presidents were elected. John L. Lewis was unanimously reelected president. President Lewis did not want to run again for that office but the membership of the CIO would not hear of such a proposal and drafted him.

Six vice-presidents elected were Sidney Hillman and Philip Murray, the two vice-presidents who served last year, and four new vice presidents, Emil Rieve of the Textile Workers Union, R. J. Thomas of the United Automobile Workers, Pres. Reid Robinson of the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers and Pres. Sherman H. Dalrymple of the United Rubber Workers.

James Carey, United Radio and Machine Workers of America, was re-elected Secretary of the CIO.

CAL SAN CANNERY SIGNS CONTRACT COVERING 400 UCAPAWA MEMBERS

Four hundred cannery workers, members of Local 75, UCAPAWA, have won a strike in Cal San Cannery, Los Angeles.

The strike was fought on many fronts. Wholesale and retail markets, in several cases, were urged not to buy Cal San products while the strike was on. They complied with UCAPAWA's request.

Complete victory for the union and a signed contract with the company ended the strike.

Buy Cal San Products

California Sanitary Canning Company produces the following brands of canned foods. Union members should look for and buy these:

Masterpiece, Mariposa, California Girl, Ful-Ripe, New Life, Oak Knoll, Hollywood and Laubs.

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Woolson Spice Signs Improved New Contract

By ART LEMLE
Local 297, Toledo, Ohio

At the last meeting of our local the new contract was read. We have kept all the good points in the contract and have won some new points.

New benefits received were an additional amount of vacation days added for those workers who have been employed five years or more.

All of us are to be paid for three holidays, possibly Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. One can enjoy a holiday when you know you are getting paid for it.

Buy Woolson Spice

We would appreciate it if CIO members not only in Toledo but in surrounding areas would buy Woolson Spice. The products consist of coffee, tea and spices. They are genuine and you'll appreciate their qualities with satisfaction, I assure you.

The boys all kid me about my poetry. Let's see what they think of this:

It's good to feel you're one of them
This great big unity of men.
Who make the wheels of industry
Turn
And fight for wages they know
They earn.
They're labor's strength and low
Wages' foe.
That's why we're strong for
The CIO.

If you can find who wrote the following, please publish:

It's a good thing to remember and a
better thing to do—
To work with the construction gang,
not with the wrecking crew

●

UCAPAWA Tackles Milk Condenseries

In Wisconsin there are 72 milk condenseries. Over half of them are owned by large corporations such as: Carnation, Pet, White House, Armours, Libby's, Bordens and others. At one time the majority of these were in the AFL. Now most of them are unorganized. It is the plan of the Tri-State Union Council of UCAPAWA to organize all of them into the International.

We are asking for a uniform State agreement covering the following provisions:

A minimum $23 weekly wage instead of an hourly wage, an average 40-hour week, a guaranteed 52-week year for regular men and a guaranteed minimum season for extra help. We want strict seniority for all and paid vacations.

Agreement With Libby

These provisions are already in effect in the agreement we have signed at our Whitewater Libby local. We feel that a minimum contract can be met by the rest of the large companies.

In Bloomer, Wis., is the Armour and Company milk condensery. It is one of the largest condenseries in the State. Workers are organized here and we have applied to UCAPAWA for a charter.

There is another smaller condensery in the town of Bloomer and two feed mills. The potential membership for our union in the town is 150 out of a population of 3000. These people were formerly in the AFL which went to pieces through neglect and lack of a signed agreement.

●

Big Gains Made In Marshall

By MRS. L. M. STEGMAN
Local 166, Marshalltown, Iowa

Our organization was the first UCAPAWA local set up in the State of Iowa. We are proud of the fact that we pioneered this field and of the progress we have accomplished.

In the years that have passed since our organization was founded, we have accomplished things far beyond our original ideas of good working conditions.

Working hours have been cut. Our wages are higher. We have vacations with pay and, above all, seniority rights.

Wages and Hours

We can now earn the same amount in eight hours as we used to earn in 14 hours a day. That shows very clearly what organization can do for a group of men and women who help themselves by their own efforts.

There have been innumerable incidents of questionable activities by non-union workers who sought to undermine the local. The sentiment of UCAPAWA members who are by far in the majority soon squelched these activities.

Sick Benefits

We are also proud of the fact that our local is strong enough to help members who are sick. We have established a sick benefit fund. Along with Workmens Compensation it takes the members over those unfortunate happenings very well.

If there are any suggestions that can help us or anything we can do in furthering any other local's activities, we would consider it a privilege to comply.

Letters From Our Members

Until Hell Freezes Over

MARSTON, Mo.—We are still moving forward with our local and are planning a big mass meeting.

We are picking cotton for 75c a hundred and foodstuff is on the high shelf but anyway we are going to carry on the CIO banner.

All of us want F.S.A. Cooperative farms and as soon as we build our membership somewhat larger we are going to have F.S.A. Cooperative farms here in South east Missouri. We want to make our own living for our families and get from under the landlord system. It is pure slavery. The sharecropper people are the worst treated in the United States of America.

We mean to fight for our rights until Hell freezes over. The landlords think we are still fooled but UCAPAWA has brought a new day for the Negro and poor white sharecropper in the cotton belt.

The sun has risen and the light is shimmering everywhere. Now we have waked up and we no longer sleep. We now know that old boss is not our friend but our enemy. Never think that Local 313 is not on the job.

We hope to see the day when labor will rule the world.

Pres. Peter Wildnerness,
Booker T. Clark, Secty., Local 313.

●

Company Agent Gets Jail

SAN ANTONIO, Texas.—Magdeleno Rodriguez, strikebreaker and company union agent for pecan shelling companies here, was convicted in County Court for aggravated assault and sentenced to one year in the county jail.

The assault for which Rodriguez went on trial was committed on August 29, when he tried to murder Teleforo Oviedo, president of Pecan Workers Union Local 172, UCAPAWA.

In Employer's Pay

Rodriguez was once employed and paid $1150 by Julius Seligman, head of the Southern Pecan Shelling Co. to start a company union in his plants. However Rodriguez failed in his efforts to sell out the workers at that time. They all left him to join UCAPAWA.

For the past several months he, with the backing of several pecan employers, has been organizing a strike-breaking organization, with the purpose of driving the CIO out of San Antonio.

Realizing that he was doomed to failure in these efforts, he resorted to violence. He hoped that through violence and terror against UCAPAWA leaders he would be able to accomplish his aims.

He will have a full year now behind the bars to deliberate over further plans to "wipe out" the UCAPAWA Pecan Shellers Union in San Antonio.

When the jury brought in its verdict of guilty, they had only been out ten minutes.

Fraternally,
Joe Wright,
UCAPAWA International Representative.

WILLIE JOE HART FREE!

Framed on a charge of robbery and sentenced to 15 years in prison. UCAPAWA fought the case to the Alabama upreme Court.

Willie Joe Hart, militant Negro sharecropper is now FREE.

CHRIS CLARICH MUST BE NEXT! Contribute now.

●

Okla. Tenants Win Victory

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla.—We have just won our first victory for the farmers here in Oklahoma. The Washington office of the F.S.A. told me to instruct all the people we know who need relief to make applications for this relief and loans.

Two locals have about 3000 signatures for drouth relief. We have set up committees to call on these persons who have signed and are not members. By the time we have our convention we hope to have not the poorest record of all the states but the best.

The regional office of the F.S.A. is sending a man here to call on me and discuss the needs of these people.

More pressure must be brought to bear on the Congress to get more money for this cause. Senators Lee and Thomas will work with us.

For what it is worth, I might suggest that you have the other organizers of UCAPAWA in Texas, Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana get acquainted with the National Emergency Council in their states. If they are right as they are here, they can and will do you a lot of good.

Fraternally,
Otis G. Nation.

●

Where The Sun Always Shines

LINDEN, Cal.—Here the sun shines and there are deserts, mountains and valleys and rivers flow and there are miles of beaches and all of this is set with parks and lakes and playgrounds.

In this paradise one thing is missing and that is the right to organize. Here you can see brothers of labor in the depts of poverty. Corks-screw politicians have played with the lives of workers here.

Since they began to organize the state government in Forty-nine the masses have time and again risen up and have been put down by thugs and gangsters.

Today Is Different

But today we have with us an organization that will protect us from these leaches of labor. Unity in the UCAPAWA and a voice at the polls will whip the wolf from the door. There is no reason why workers should sit idle and see the fruit drop to the ground.

We have gone through 10 years of idleness and closed industry and mounting relief rolls. Men and women have sat out in jungles patiently waiting to go to work.

When work comes, wages are so low and jobs so short that it seems futile to move to another job.

Unity

There is one way to stop this and that is through organization and unity. Since UCAPAWA has come into the field, we find that as we move into the next crop, committees have already been set up and are organizing. In towns where there never was such a thing now we find UCAPAWA all in blossom and ready to go.

The worker farms the land and the farmer farms the worker. If the farmer will do nothing about the price of his fruit then why should the worker? But there is a way for the farmer to do something and that is to join with the worker and fight for the same cause.

What minds working people can have when they say, "Let's put our shoulder to the wheel. Let's go."

SUGAR

Huge Harvesters Threaten Jobs Of Thousands In Sugar Cane Area

Thirteen huge sugar cane harvesting machines are thundering through cane fields around New Roads, Louisiana. These machines can cut as much sugar cane in an hour as a man can cut in two weeks.

One hundred thousand workers face the loss of jobs through the use of these machines. This is the first mechanical advance in harvesting cane since sugar growing was first introduced into Louisiana.

For 168 years, every October, Negroes have harvested the crop with big knives or machetes. First they were slaves. When freedom came, they became part of the poorest paid section of workers in America.

A fast cutter, or knife, as the workers are called, can cut tops from stalks at the rate of four tons a day. That figure represents terrible speed up for the cutters.

The cane grows on an average of about twenty to thirty tons an acre. A machine can cut and load an acre in about an hour.

In other words, it takes a man one day to cut four tons. In that same time a machine can cut from 200 to 300 tons.

Planters estimate that the machine will save them 75 to 80% of the harvesting costs. New machines are the result of experiments conducted by Allan R. Wurtels and Joseph J. Munson, manager of a corporation that has about 19,000 acres under cultivation.

BRUSSEL SPROUT ANCHES STRUCK

PESCADERO, Cal.—Five hundred Filipino workers picking brussel sprouts have struck 27 ranches in San Mateo County. They are asking 35c instead of 30c an hour for a 10-hour day.

The world's largest sprout farm, the Benedetti ranch, is among those struck.

Growers threaten to bring in Mexicans as strikebreakers. The strikers are not migrants. They are permanent residents who are also threatened with eviction from their homes.

Although the men have not yet affiliated with UCAPAWA, our union is giving them assistance.

Action Follows Beet Conference

Following a program outlined at the Beet Labor Conference held September 27 in Denver, Col., UCAPWA locals are rallying the workers as topping is coming to an end in the fields. The Conference program called for full payments for hoeing operations, a 25 percent increase in wages, immediate wage hearings and farmer-labor cooperation in support of the Sugar Act.

A drive for payment of annual union dues has begun in the Rocky Mountains area. Funds are urgently needed by locals and District 3, to conduct an effective campaign for the Beet Labor Conference program. Results may already be seen in regards to a demand for hoeing payments taken away from workers under verbal or written contracts.

Hoeings Must Be Paid For

In answer to a letter addressed to Secretary Wallace by District Pres. Fidel Herrera on payments for hoeing operations, Leon O. Wolcott, assistant to the Secretary of Agriculture stated that "any laborer who has not been paid in full and at rates not less than those established by the determination of fair and reasonable wages may file a claim against the producer for whom he worked. Until such a claim is adjusted the producer may not receive any conditional Government sugar beet payment."

This clear cut answer by the Department of Agriculture has spurred UCAPAWA beet workers' locals to file claims with the County Committees and prepare for legal action in cases where growers stubbornly refuse payments due.

Figures brought out at the Beet Labor Conference conclude that denial of hoeing payments represents a loss of 18 percent of the worker's seasonal earnings in Northern Colorado. With an average seasonal income of only $175, beet workers are determined to fight for full hoeing payments from growers.

Request Hearings

Claiming that sugar prices shooting upwards since the outbreak of the European war, have brought huge profits to sugar companies and percentage increases to growers, UCAPAWA District 3 locals are requesting immediate Department of Agriculture wage hearings.

In a communcation sent to Secretary Wallace by Fidel Herrera, as instructed by the Beet Labor Conference, the fact is brought out that, while market prices for refined sugar have risen from $4.40 per hundred pounds on September 5 to $5.75 the following day, and settled at $5.50 after efforts were made by the government to check profiteering, sugar beet workers in the Rocky Mountains area are getting wage rates 11 percent less than in 1938 for topping operations.

Relief Needs Great

At the Beet Labor Conference, WPA Administrator for Colorado, Paul Shriver stated that there would be 7,000 jobs available from November to January for needy workers. At present UCAPAWA locals, facing an acute unemployment problem, are actively fighting discrimination against union members in job assignments.

The sugar companies' agents who instigated growers to deprive workers from hoeing payments, are continuing their frantic efforts to scatter sugar beet workers from their homes, to make them ineligible for relief or WPA jobs.

Sugar company agents believe that through a widespread attack on the beet workers they will finally accomplish their aims of destroying UCAPAWA locals, driving a wedge between workers and small growers and preventing joint support for the Sugar Act.

For Cooperation

The present Sugar Act ends in 1940. Upholding the reenactment of this legal measure with its guarantees for workers and growers is a pivotal question in the present situation. All efforts are being made by the profiteering sugar companies to rally the growers to their side against the Sugar Act.

UCAPAWA beet worker locals, under the guidance of District 3, headed by Intl. Rep. Clyde Johnson and District Pres. Fidel Herrera, are actively engaged in building farmer-labor cooperation for support of the Sugar Act and to curb the anti-labor drive of the sugar companies.

Secretary-Treasurer's Column

By
Michael Howard
Secretary-Treasurer
UCAPAWA

At the last meeting of the International Executive Board, the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"The international office is hereby instructed to levy a fine of $10 upon any local that fails to send in its monthly per capita report when due."

Beginning with the month of December, the above penalty will be rigidly enforced.

Certain emergency situations may prevent a local from paying its per capita taxes on time. The international office has always cooperated in such cases.

No emergency, however, should prevent a local from sending in its monthly per capita report when due.

To fail to do so is sheer negligence. It indicates, also, a lack of responsibility to the international.

The membership holds the international responsible for whatever happens to their money. This is always true in the long run. It does not matter whether we received their money or not.

For example, several locals, after internal reorganizations, have written us asking what they owed in back per capita taxes.

In most of these cases, we were in the inexcusable position of not really knowing. We had not received their per capita reports.

Another reason which made the Board decision very necessary was the problem of budgeting.

Unless the international office budgets its income as effectively as possible, all sorts of unnecessary emergencies arise. Because of the seasonal nature of many of our locals, it is a difficult problem, at best, to estimate our income ahead of time. When a local fails to send its report on time, it makes the problem even more difficult.

Within the next few days, your local will receive a letter advising you of the board decision. Please take this in all seriousness and give us your cooperation.

By this time your local has received a letter dealing with the referendum vote on postponing the 1939 UCAPAWA National Convention until some time in 1940.

The reasons for this referendum have been included in that letter.

Each local should discuss this whole question in detail at the first membership meeting.

Send us the result of your vote as quickly as possible.

News of the Month

Apple Employers Seek Exemption

Representatives of the UCAPAWA, CIO Wage and Hour Bureau, and the Shenandoah Valley Committee of Fair Play for Workers testified at a hearing held by the Wages and Hours Administration against granting any seasonal hours exemptions to the apple storage warehouses in the Shenandoah Valley and the Appalachian area.

Exemption Unjustified

It was pointed out by Donald Henderson, representing the UCAPAWA, that these cold storage companies were commercial concerns competing with similar storage plants in urban areas and that any exemptions granted here would tend to undermine conditions in all commercial warehouses. A statement has been filed by UCAPAWA with the Wages and Hours Administration showing that the Appalachian-Shenandoah Valley area apples compete with Washington, Oregon and New York apple areas where union standards in these storages, both as regards wages and hours, are much higher and that exemptions to these southern employers are unjustified and would undermine conditions in these other areas.

Tom Reed, chairman of the Committee of Fair Play for Workers, testified that these cold storage warehouses in the Shenandoah Valley are engaged in all kinds of storage activities besides apples, including storage of beer, meats, general foods, furs and transient perishable commodities being trucked north from the Southern states. He further testified that the storage business of these concerns was not seasonal and that during the rush period while apple harvesting was on more than sufficient labor was available in the Shenandoah Valley to meet all requirements.

Protests against granting these exemptions were also filed by the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, CIO, in San Francisco, Cal.

Giant Poultry Farm Struck

The biggest poultry farm in the world was completely closed down on October 12 when 240 workers struck against attempts of the owner of the Runnymede Farms to slash wages.

Strike action came after three weeks of negotiations between Jack Frankel, attorney for UCAPAWA and J. Hartley Taylor, owner of Runnymede Farms. Negotiations broke down when Taylor refused to withdraw the wage cut.

All of the strikers are members of the Valley Poultry Workers Union Local 17 of UCAPAWA.

Pickets Solid

With growing picket lines and community support UCAPAWA is fighting a determined battle.

Picket lines are thrown around each truck as it stops for deliveries. A soup kitchen has been organized in Reseda (San Fernando Valley) where strike headquarters are located.

Sharecropper Camp Gets Building Material, Clothes

By O. H. WHITFIELD

The sharecroppers camp at Harviell, Missouri is continuing the fight. On Sunday, October 29 we had a mass meeting on our camp ground. The attendance was 1500. Plans were made to hold special meetings in each local with the secretary-treasurer present in order to set up County Central Councils in each County.

CIO Boatmen's Union is doing a good job on our camp grounds. It has established a union school. From St. Louis the committee sent down $160, roofing and building material and a truck of clothes.

Slowly but surely we are getting ready for the long struggle during the coming winter months.

SELIGMAN FORCED NEW STRIKE ON SAN ANTONIO PECAN LOCAL

Julius Seligman, San Antonio Pecan King, signed a new contract with Local 172 UCAPAWA the last of October. It provided for 30c an hour instead of 25c. The other clauses in the agreement were about the same as last years.

No sooner was the agreement reached than Seligman started his funny business. He began hiring workers who never had belonged to the union. He eased along with that tactic for a couple of days and then fired 69 workers from two shops.

Strike

When that happened, something had to be done. Three hundred workers walked out. The union sent a letter to Mayor Maverick asking him to intervene as mediator.

The strike lasted from November 8 to 11 while Seligman tried in every way possible to break the union.

He was however forced to sit down with the Mayor's mediators. At the close of the strike all those who had walked out were reinstated and the union expects to get about half of the 69 who were fired reinstated.

Gains Made

Some gains were made by the strike. On the basis of the mediator's report, the union can exert pressure on the company for establishing minimums of production despite the fact that this is not provided for in the union contract.

The union can proceed further with the investigation to bring to light the extent of speed-up in the shops.

Wages and Hours

One of the big troubles in the San Antonio pecan shelling industry is that the Wages and Hours people have never attempted to enforce the law. Seligman only keeps to wage minimums because UCAPAWA has organized his plant.

Letters have been written to the Wages and Hours Administration. Since Mayor Maverick was elected in place of his corrupt predecessor he has done all in his power to see that the law was enforced.

Seligman Contract

There are certain weak points in UCAPAWA's contract with Seligman that will have to be changed if future strikes are to be avoided.

When Seligman was forced to pay the minimum wage one of the first things he did was to install machinery and fire all but the best workers. He then began a speed-up campaign. The contract is weak at this very point. It does not state in black and white how much a worker can produce in one hour or one day.

The union has really nothing to say in the matter of hiring or firing. Those who became unemployed as a result of machinery are on the whole children and old women. Many of them are living on the increased wages their relatives are making. Some of these people, however, had no one to depend on when Seligman installed machinery. The union, therefore, is forced to carry on an intense relief campaign.

Fight For Rural Electricity Program

WASHINGTON — (FP) — Efforts of the utility companies to spike the New Deal's guns by pretending that all points in dispute have been settled were rudely shattered as TVA director David E. Lilienthal delivered a blistering attack on the Alabama Power Co. and its parent company, Commonwealth & Southern Corp.

In a speech prepared here for delivery at a celebration of the Tallapoosa River Electric Membership Corp., a Rural Electrification Administration financed project, Lilienthal recounted the past activities of the private utilities in trying to prevent rural electrification and expressed the hope that the Alabama Power Co. would change its policies and cooperate in the task of rural electrification.

In 1923, Lilienthal recalled, the Alabama Power Co. announced a program of rural electrification yet by the end of 1932 less than 5% of Alabama's farms had electric service. States served by Commonwealth & Southern were not better off.

Yet said Lilienthal, the period from 1923 to 1932 "was as near a utility paradise as could be imagined. The streets were paved with mergers and consolidations and stock dividends ripened on every tree. While utilities enjoyed prosperity, even when other businesses dropped, southern farms continued without a real electricity program."

"I am optimist enough to believe that after future deliberation the Alabama Power Co. will conclude to end this dog in the manger policy of fighting farmers' cooperatives, a policy that deprives farmers of a way of living which they greatly desire and for which they are ready to pay and yet which does not harm the private companies."

Look For The Union Label When You Buy